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Head descent, moulding and other intrapartum clinical findings in the prediction of cephalopelvic disproportion

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Research project information sheet **Appendix B**

Clinical assessment of fetal head descent and skull moulding in the prediction and diagnosis of cephalopelvic disproportion

My name is Dr Eckhart Buchmann and I am doing a research project towards a Ph D degree. The project aims to find out the best way to decide, during labour, if a woman will have problems with delivery of her baby.

Two examinations help us decide whether delivery will be easy. The first is to measure how well the baby has moved down into the pelvis (head descent), and the second is to feel the baby's head during labour to assess the pressure on the skull bones (moulding). These examinations are done by external (abdominal) and internal (vaginal) examination and are essential and routine parts of the examination of a woman in labour. There is still disagreement about which techniques of examination are the best – external or internal, and how the pressure against the baby's skull bones should be measured.

I plan to examine many women using the different techniques of measuring head descent and moulding, with follow up to find out if they delivered normally. In this way I hope to find out the best way of performing these examinations..

I am asking you to participate in this study. I would like to examine you externally and internally at the same time as the doctor's examination on the next labour ward round, if he or she finds that you are in active labour. My examination is not part of your management in labour, and I cannot take part in deciding your treatment because I am not allowed to see your labour chart until after you have delivered.

169 cm
25.5 cm
Size 7

Your participation will not benefit you in any way, nor will a refusal to participate be held against you. You are free to refuse to participate, and even after you have signed consent below, you are still free to withdraw from the study. You are assured that if you participate, all the information about your examination will be held in confidence and your name will be known only to me.

Consent

Clinical assessment of fetal head descent and skull moulding in the prediction and diagnosis of cephalopelvic disproportion

I declare that I understand the contents of the information sheet and that the study has been explained to me by Dr Buchmann. I hereby give consent to be a subject in the study. I am aware that I may withdraw my consent at any time.

Name P Mashaba Signed P Mashaba

Date 16/4/07